



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT
OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

Manual:	CP&P	Child Protection and Permanency	Effective Date:
Volume:	VI	Adolescent Services	
Chapter:	C	Other Adolescent Services	6-25-2012
Subchapter:	1	Minor Parents	
Issuance:	100	Adolescent Services for Minor Parents	

Transition of the Minor Parent into Adulthood 6-25-2012

Incorporate adolescent services into the minor parent's case plan to increase the opportunity for better service delivery and a successful outcome. Utilize adolescent services to promote independence and self-sufficiency for the minor parent's growth and development while under the care of the Division. See [CP&P-VI-B-1-300](#).

For minor parents who will not be returning to their family upon discharge from placement, an independent living permanency goal may be the most appropriate and realistic. In an effort to transition the minor parent into adulthood, the Worker discusses with the minor parent options to independence. These options can include, but are not limited to:

- Life skills;
- Lifelong connections to caring adults;
- Mentoring programs; and
- Self-sufficiency skills.

For minors, including minor parents 14 years of age or older, the Worker assesses the minor parent's life skills proficiency, utilizing the New Jersey Competency Based Life Skill Assessment System. See [CP&P-VI-B-1-300](#). Use this comprehensive, formal assessment process to determine basic competency in a number of life skill areas. The Worker uses the results of this assessment to better understand the minor parent's strengths and needs and assist with transitional planning. Under the John Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, states are required to plan for the needs of youth in care, and funding is provided for services to assist youth so they may successfully transition from care. See [CP&P-VI-B-1-300](#).

Relevant Policy 06-25-2012

- [CP&P-III-A-1-500](#), Services to Adolescents Age 18 to 21
- [CP&P-IV-B-8-100](#), Services to Children in Resource Home Placement
- [CP&P-VI-B-1-300](#), Adolescent Services Toward Self-Sufficiency

Accessing DCF and Community-Based Services 06-25-2012

The Department of Children and Families, Division of Family and Community Partnerships (FC&P) and the Division of Child Protection and Permanency are in contract with a number of programs which may be suitable for minor parents with children in out-of-home placement. Such services include, but are not limited to:

- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP);
- Healthy Families Program (HF);
- Parents as Teachers (PAT);
- TANF Initiative for Parents (TIP Program);
- Early Head Start/Head Start;
- Early Intervention Services (See [CP&P-II-C-5-1100](#));
- School Based Youth Services Program;
- Family Success Centers; and
- Foster and Adoptive Services Association (FASA).

Information about the various programs and services are posted on the DCF F&CP and/or CP&P web page and can be easily accessed. Contact the Division of Family and Community Partnerships Office of Early Childhood Services at: (609) 888-7394 for referral information and advice.